

June 6, 2011

## **Town Council Report: May, 2011 Parks and Recreation Activity Highlights:**

### *Zionsville Parks Golf Course*

- May 2011 gross profit numbers for ZGC were ~\$34,344. This is nearly three times the gross profits from last month. We did still have some weather related missed-days in May. While 2011's May gross was ~\$3,500 under 2010's, a strong finish over this year's 3-day Memorial Day Holiday time-period gave our golf staff hope this more moderate weather will help players get back in the habit of picking up their clubs. Even though May 2010's numbers were better, the staff reports that our Memorial Day holiday weekend's gross profit numbers this year was actually slightly higher than last year's.

### *Other Recreation*

- Our Interpretative Naturalist and her staff are kicking off the day camp series in June. This successful and highly involved series provides a large percentage of our environmental recreation patronage. This ongoing program is very well received and represents the single largest inflow of user funds supplementing environmental programming; And, of course, the largest outflow of costs for a single category of this specialized type of recreational programming as well, as those user fees go back out to help support much of the program's direct costs.
- Our Garden Plots on the land acquired in April 2010 at 400 South and 875 East are shy two of filling. We doubled our efforts this year and placed 80 plots on the northern portion of the land (Fire dept. portion but the plots had to be put up north because that is where the County Highway Department would allow a temporary gravel road cut until the park site is actually fully developed). The National Recreation and Park Association had a recent article on a nationwide boom in municipal garden plot demand and usage. This is our 15th year providing with this recreational opportunity for our citizens.
- On May 21st, as a part of National Bicycle Awareness Month, the Park Department held a Bicycle Rodeo and Family Fun ride. Cosponsored by Nebo Ridge Bicycles (whose owner is a resident), and with a much assistance from volunteers on our own Recreation Advisory Citizens Committee as well as a presence from our Police Department, the Rodeo portion was designed to teach children bicycle safety and basic skills. They gathered at our newest Park, Elm Street Green for a set of several activities and helmet safety checks, and mechanical checks as well. Then about 20 to 25 participants rode out of Elm Street Green to enjoy a 7.2 mile loop that utilized much of our trail system and Rail Trail before finishing at the Farmers Market. The event was a well received start to what is planned as a yearly program.

### *Other Highlighted Matters*

- The safety/wayfinding signage process continues with an update presentation at the May Park Board meeting where also members of the stakeholders group had been invited and of course the general public was present as well. During the presentation, several Park Board members had comments as well as Public Safety and other guests in the audience. The presentation was a check to see if their approaches were on target and next will begin the specific recommendations as to locations and sign specifics within Starkey Park and the Rail Trail. After that the will be further fleshed out into a set of "bid ready" specifications so that signs for these areas may be procured and installed.